

XXXIII. MIL03346

Clinopyroxenite

715 grams



Figure XXXIII-1: Processing photo of MIL03346. Cube is 1 cm, for scale. Photo is from newsletter.

Introduction

The Mars Exploration Program supplemented the 2003-2004 ANSMET expedition in the hope of improving the chance of finding additional samples of Mars. As luck would have it, a very black rock was recovered from the blue ice on Dec 15, 2003 in the Miller Range, among the other 1358 new specimens discovered during this field season.

<http://geology.cwru.edu/~ansmet/>

The first round of sample requests indicated the interest of about 50 scientific teams world wide. Stay tuned.

Petrography

MIL03346 is a new nakhlite with about 60% fusion crust. Initial description by the PET indicates it might be similar to Lafayette (see chapter III). Figure XXXIII-1 illustrates the initial subdivision, prior to formal allocations. MIL03346 appears to have abundant clinopyroxene and mesostasis with some alteration (figure XXXIII-2).

A brief petrography description is available at:

<http://www-curator.jsc.nasa.gov/antmet/amn/amnaug04/petdes2.htm#MIL03346>

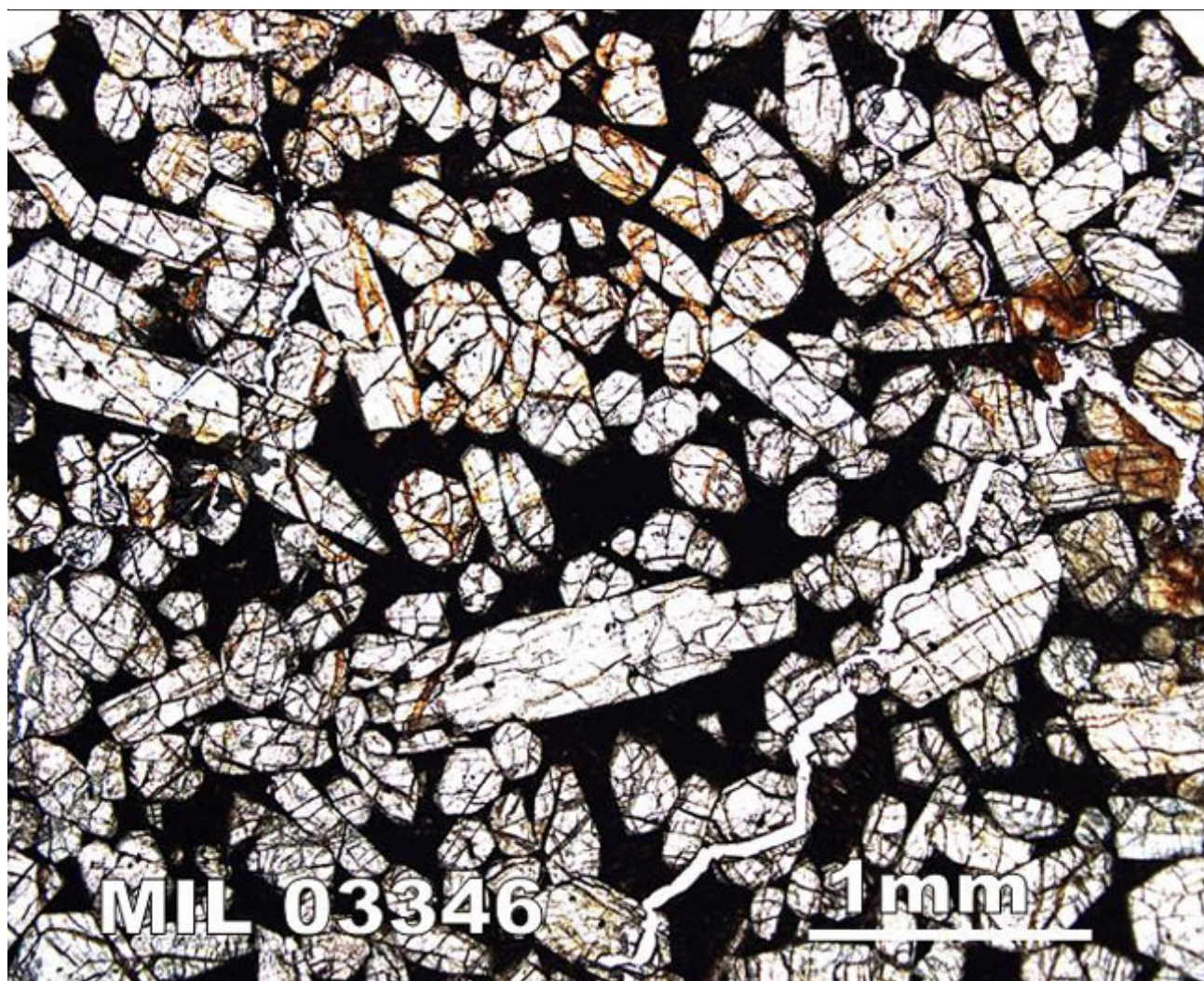


Figure XXXIII-2: Thin section photomicrograph of MIL03346. Scale bar is 1 mm. Euhedral clinopyroxene is set in fine-grained mesostasis (opaque). Areas of apparent alteration are present. Photo is from newsletter.